

# Senior Center honored

## Tenth facility in Mass. to receive accreditation

By JUSTIN GRAEBER, CLIPPER EDITOR  
JUSTIN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM

Duxbury residents have long been proud of their senior center. And now the rest of the country knows just how good its services really are.

The Duxbury Senior Center is the 10th center in the state to receive the distinction of national accreditation. The center, along with Council on Aging Director Joanne Moore, were feted during a ceremony Thursday evening at the center.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Betsy Sullivan called the assembled volunteers her "heroes."

"This building, this community, is such a beacon of hope, good manners and enthusiasm," she said. "Every time I drive by it I smile ... It is just a wonderful spot in our town."

Council on Aging Chairman John Madden told the crowd that the accreditation isn't just a meaningless distinction.

"It's not just something you hang on the wall, it's something that helps us grow," he said.

Moore praised her volunteers and staff for their work on the accreditation process.

"It was because of all of you that this got done," she said. "My philosophy is working together we can achieve so much."

The Senior Center was awarded the accreditation in August. It is one of 173 senior



Senior Center Director Joanne Moore presents a special award to volunteer Carol Chapman at Thursday's ceremony.

centers nationwide to achieve the honor.

The report, compiled by the National Institute of Senior Centers, listed a number of the Duxbury facility's strengths, including a "director with vision and skill and a dedicated staff," and "a very strong volunteer base."

The report also said that several of Duxbury's programs, including the Respite Program and Life Long Learning, were models for other centers across the country.

Town officials were lavish in their praise of Moore.

"I don't know where to start to recognize Joanne Moore," said Town Manager Richard MacDonald. "Her intelligence and her positive, positive atti-

### BY THE NUMBERS

**32,400:** Visitors to the center in FY2009

**11,689:** Meals prepared by Senior Center staff

**7,005:** Home-delivered meals

**3,252:** Rides provided in the "Sadie" bus

**866:** Medical rides given

**1,900:** Contacts made by outreach staff

**49:** Monthly programs offered

**2,234:** Programs offered annually

**22:** Cultural/educational trips

**600:** Hours of respite care

**497:** Evening meetings hosted

**245:** Volunteers who work at the center

**24,739.5:** Hours given by volunteers

**\$482,668:** Dollars those hours would translate into for the town





**Massachusetts Secretary of Elder Affairs Ann Hartstein stopped by the Senior Center on Thursday to bestow a citation upon the town.**



**Senior Center Director Joanne Moore was praised by town and state officials during Thursday's ceremony.**

tude is what makes this center thrive."

MacDonald said that when he came to Duxbury in 1996, the senior center was located in the Alden School. It moved to the old town hall (now the selectmen's office) before the current facility was built.

"Now we're in this beautiful facility," he said. "This achievement is an honor and a testament to all of the hard work."

Sullivan also singled out the center's director.

"We have an extraordinary leader," she said of Moore. "She could have been anything ... and she chose us."

Carol Chapman, one of the center's volunteers, was honored by Moore for her above-and-beyond work for the center. She reminded those in attendance that a good volunteer's work is never done.

"It was a good process, and we should continue it and we need to not sit back and rest on our laurels," Chapman said.